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REPORT NO.

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COUNTRY USSR/Austria (Soviet Zone)
SUBJECT Soviet Atomic Warfare Fortification Manual

DATE DISTR. 11 May 1954

NO. OF PAGES 3

DATE OF INFORMATION

REFERENCES:

PLACE ACQUIRED

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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SOVIET ATOMIC WARFARE FORTIFICATION MANUAL

1. The Soviet Atomic Warfare Fortification Manual was a gray cardboard-covered booklet approximately 12 x 20 cm. The number of pages was unknown [redacted]

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2. The manual promised hope of survival to troops who were about one kilometer from the center of impact in 2½-m. deep, well-constructed trenches, or who were about four kilometers from the center of impact in the open.

3. The manual stated that trenches, not individual fox-holes, were to be dug. The trenches were to be 2½ m. deep, and the banks were to be shored at intervals. There was to be one-half meter with shoring, then two to three meters without shoring. The log shoring had to be constructed in such a manner that the logs would not be higher than the parapets. At the junctions of the trenches with communicating trenches, the banks had to be well shored. The supporting logs had to be smeared with clay or lime in order to prevent or minimize the danger of fire.

Small niches were to be made in the sides of the trenches for ammunition and equipment. The trenches were to be constructed in such a manner that the occupants could fire their weapons by standing on a ledge built up on one side of the trench.

[redacted] 2d Rifle Bn, 287th Gds. Rifle Regt., was supposed to have a training exercise and build such a trench. However, the earth was frozen and the picks broke. Therefore, the plan was abandoned. Up to the [redacted] no trenches for atomic defense had been constructed.

4. [redacted] not recall the manual stating a safe time to leave the trenches after an atomic explosion.

5. [redacted] not recall any armor tactics, or any tactics at all, to be used after an atomic explosion. The manual stated that men in a trench were safer than men in armored vehicles up to a distance of two to three kilometers from the center of impact.

6. The manual dealt with the burning effects and radioactive rays, and did not mention shock at all.

7. Opinion was divided about the atomic bomb among officers of the 287th Gds. Rifle Regt. Some held that "the devil was not as black as painted", and that atomic bombs were not going to destroy entire armies. Others believed that chances of survival were exceedingly slight. The manual did not try to minimize the actual effects or to instill confidence into the readers. [redacted] "Personal feelings of officers and EM were not considered in the Soviet Army, and played no part in the tenor of the manual, which dealt with tangible data."

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8. The manual dealt only with the atomic bomb. [redacted]
[redacted] the hydrogen bomb mentioned only in MALENKOV's speeches.

9. [redacted] not recall any facts pertinent to the length of time an area was considered to be contaminated by radio-activity after an atomic explosion.

10. [redacted] the manual had an introductory preface. [redacted] it contained the current Soviet propaganda that the Western Powers were all set to use atomic bombs, and the USSR would be forced to retaliate in kind.

[redacted] the USSR published and distributed atomic defense manuals, the Soviet government felt that atomic bombs would definitely be used. The manual had no data on this [redacted] though some might have been in the preface, as mentioned above.

No mention was made of the legality of using the atomic bomb.

11. [redacted] not know if the atomic defense manuals were distributed to satellite armies. [redacted] they were, because all satellite armies were trained according to Soviet manuals.

12. [redacted] no information on tactics to be used with the atomic bomb, except as stated in par, 12, page 4, report [redacted]

13. [redacted] no pictures dealing with the construction of defensive trenches.

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